Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 04504 151347Z

42

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 FDRE-00

AID-05 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7526

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL TEL AVIV 4504

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS SREF JO IS

SUBJ: ALLENBYBRIDGE AND ISRAELI SECURITY

CONCERNS

REF: TEL AVIV 4454

1. WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY SENIOR OFFICIAL OF UNRWA/GAZA THAT ISRAELIS ARE REFUSING TO ALLOW UNRWA TO TRANSFER SEVERAL TONS OF RICE FROM JORDAN TO GAZA ACROSS ALLENBY BRIDGE. ISRAELIS, WHO ARE AWARE THAT AS RESULT RICE MAY SOON HAVE TO BE ELIMINATED FROM UNRWA RATIONS IN GAZA, CLAIM THAT TO ALLOW SUCH LARGE AMOUNT OF ANY COMMODITY TO BE TRANSHIPPED WOULD ENTAIL SIGNIFICANT SECURITY RISK. ISRAELIS HAVE WITHHELD PERMISSION EVEN THOUGH UNRWA HAS OFFERED TO EMPTY EVERY BAG IN PRESENCE OF ISRAELI INSPECTORS AT BRIDGE AND CARRY RICE LOOSE FROM CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEL AV 04504 151347Z

BRIDGE TO GAZA (PROCEDURE WHICH HAS BEEN USED IN PAST).

2. COMMENT: DESPITE LIFGING OF EXTRAORDINARY RESTRIC-

TIONS ON CROSSING OF ALLENBY BRIDGE IMPOSED AFTER ZION SQUARE BOMBING (PARA 1 REFTEL), ISRAELIS OBVIOUSLY REMAIN HYPERSENSITIVE TO SECURITY IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASED TRAFFIC ACROSS BRIDGE DURING SUMMER MONTHS.

- 3. SITUATION DESCRIBED DOES NOT REPRESENT RECURRING PROBLEM FOR UNRWA/GAZA. AS DEPT IS AWARE, NORMAL ENTRY POINT FOR COMMODITIES DESTINED FOR GAZA IS ASHDOD, WITH OCCASIONAL USE OF GAZA PORT. ALLENBY BRIDGE IS USED ONLY IN EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES WHEN SHORFALL IN GAZA CAN BE MET FROM SURPLUS ON HAND IN JORDAN.
- 4. INFO RE THIS PROBLEM WAS GIVEN US FYI, WITH NO RPT NO SUGGESTION UNRWA WISHED OR EXPECTED US OR ANY OTHER DONOR TO RAISE MATTER WITH ISRAELIS (RICE IN QUESTION IS APPARENTLY PART OF JAPANESE CONTRIBUTION) UNRWA SOURCE TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT IF ASKED BY REFUGEES HE INTENDED TO CITE LACK OF ISRAELI COOPERATION AS CAUSE SHOULD RICE RATION HAVE TO BE CURTAILED.

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

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Concepts: RICE, TRAVEL CONTROLS, TERRORISTS

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Disposition Event:
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Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JÚL 2006

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Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE Subject: n/a

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SREF, JO, IS, GZ To: STATE INFO AMMAN

BEIRUT CAIRO DAMASCUS JERUSALEM USUN N Y

Type: TE Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006